THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) Fertilizer prices were revised with effect from 25th July, 1991 and again w.e.f. 14th August, 1991. At the time of revision on 25th July, 1991, the Government notification provided that the stocks held by retailers as on 24-7-1991 will be sold at the pre-revised prices; however, the stocks as above held by wholesalers and manufacturers were to be sold at the revised prices. When the prices were again revised w.e.f. 14th August, 1991, the relevant Government notification provided that the stocks acquired both by wholesalers and retail dealers at pre- 24th July, 1991 prices, shall be sold at the pre-revised prices.

(b) The powers for enforcement of sale of fertilizers to the farmers at the statutorily fixed prices are vested with the State Government concerned and, therefore, the complaints received by Government in this regard were forwarded to the State Government of Punjab for necessary action. The report from the State Government on the action taken by them is awaited.

(c) Under the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985 there is no provision for refund of excess amount charged by fertilizer dealers to the farmers. There is also no provision for releasing equivalent quantity of fertilizers at the old rates. It is for the State Government of Punjab to take appropriate remedial action in this regard.

Decontrolling/deregulation fertilisers

3760. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any representation from the fertilizer industry to decontrol/deregulate fertilizers;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) The Fertilizers Association of India in a Memorandum dated 29th November, 1991 has stated that the fertilizer industry would rather welcome removal of all price and distribution controls on fertilizers to allow for market forces to operate rather than tightening the norms of subsidy payment during the 6th pricing period.

(c) The entire issue of fertilizer pricing and subsidy is presently being considered by a Parliament Committee.

Public and Co-operative Sector's Urea Manufacturers

3761. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many Public Sector and Co-operative Sector Urea manufacturers have purchased large quantities of HDPE and PP bags immediately after the commencement of partial strike in the jute sector;

(b) if so, what are the details unit-wise; and

(c) whether Government are also aware that such purchase of HDPE and PP bags have been made in large quantities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c) Four public sector undertakings (viz. Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd., Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd., Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. and FACT) and one fertilizer manufacturing Cooperative Society (IFFCO) purchased HDPE bags as a temporary measure in varying quantities. This was done as they were experiencing difficulty in procuring adequate quantities of jute bags due to the strike in the jute industry in late January, 1992.

रुग्ण फार्मास्युटिकल्स कंपनियों के मामले को बीआईएफआर को सौंपा जाना

3762. **श्री अनन्तराम जायसवाल** : क्या **प्रधान** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की रुग्ण फार्मास्युटिकल